

27 May 2022

Dear Friends

A New Strategic Partnership for Test Valley School

The Governors at Test Valley School have been working hard to secure an exciting future for the school. We regard our local councils and community organisations as key stakeholders in this process and we would like to keep you informed of our plans and progress.

To enable a school of our size to offer the best experience to young people and to serve our community most effectively, we have explored a number of options for a strategic partnership – either through federating with another Hampshire maintained school or by joining a local Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). We wish to preserve the many things that are unique about Test Valley School whilst delivering more stable leadership, a clear direction and access to resources which are hard for a smaller school to achieve on its own.

I am delighted to announce that the Board of Governors has decisively recommended that we open negotiations to join the **HISP Multi Academy Trust (MAT)** and we are now commencing a structured consultation process with parents and stakeholders.

HISP is a local MAT that has its roots in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth. It has been a Multi Academy Trust with 3 schools (Thornden Secondary School in Chandlers Ford, Tanners Brook and Portswood Primary schools in Southampton) since July 2020. Test Valley School is currently a Local Authority School but would become an Academy as part of the process of joining the MAT and, in doing so, would be ahead of the curve. As you may be aware, The Department for Education has recently announced their intention that all schools will have a plan to become part of a MAT by 2030. Should you wish to find out more about HISP, you can see much more at [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Home \(hispmat.org\)](https://www.hispmat.org).

We have identified a number of benefits to being part of a MAT. As well as enabling access to greater resources and core support functions, HISP have a compelling vision to develop the school as a hub for Teacher Training & Development and to explore siting centres of excellence for Maths and Science here. Efficiencies in administrative functions and joint procurement will help us make the most of our resources for the direct benefit of teachers and students

The Governors feel it is important that we consult with you and wider stakeholders. We would very much appreciate your input and thoughts on how we ensure the school can flourish within the Trust and that the unique aspects of Test Valley shine through. We also want to provide plenty of opportunity for you to get answers to any questions you may have.

HEADTEACHER • MR A PAGE

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The **Consultation** will run until Tuesday June 21st and will include:

1. Frequently Asked Questions

A list of the most commonly asked questions and answers will be published and regularly updated via our website.

2. Questions/Observations Post Box

If you would like to raise any questions or concerns or make any suggestions for how to make our school the best it can be, please send these in to info@testvalley.hants.sch.uk . We will group questions into themes as they come in and provide regular answers and updates.

3. Stakeholder Meetings

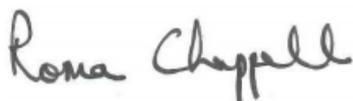
We intend to hold two open meetings for stakeholders to learn more about HISP, meet key leaders and discuss the things you would like to see from the partnership. It is hoped to hold the first of these for parents on June 7th starting at 6.30pm and a wider stakeholder session soon afterwards. We will confirm further details shortly.

In parallel with the consultation process, Test Valley School, HISP and the Local Authority will be undertaking **Due Diligence** to ensure the school and our community's interests are protected through the transfer to the Trust. It is our hope that an application to join the Trust will be made to the Regional Schools Commissioner (Department for Education) for approval at their meeting at the end of July. Although the legal transfer process may take a further 4-6 months to complete, we hope to have the Local Authority's support to appoint a permanent Head and put the new management structure in place for the start of the new year in September.

Our primary focus right now remains on supporting Andrew Page and the Senior Leadership Team and we continue to enjoy great support from both Hampshire CC and Crestwood School. With GCSEs upon us, we are determined to ensure that students across all years get the best from the hard work they have put in this year.

I hope this is helpful. We look forward to discussing this with you over the coming weeks and to embarking together on the next exciting phase in pursuit of excellence at Test Valley School.

Many thanks for your support.



Roma Chappell
Chair of Governors

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